(c) whether it is also a fact that a plan has been drawn up for establishing two international ship-building yards on the East and West coast on a public-private partnership basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is already a ship-building subsidy scheme providing 30% of subsidy of the price of vessels for construction by Indian Shipyards. In case of domestic orders, vessels have to be ocean going merchant vessels of 80 meter length and above and order have to be obtained on Global Tender basis and for export orders, vessels can be of any type or size and can be either on Global Tender basis or on negotiated basis. The scheme was extended by Government to all shipyards including private sector shipyards on 25th October, 2002. Prior to that the scheme was applicable only to the Central Public Sector shipyards.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Highways Under NHDP

175. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to upgrade an additional 34,000 kms of highways under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) if so; the details thereof, including the specific stretches of roads identified in different regions, the criteria evolved/laid down for such selection, the pattern of upgradation decided therefore and the phased programme drawn up for implementation; and

(c) the details of other similar demands and States pending, if any, and long term plans drawn up for their upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.